

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 00846

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS CG BE FR US
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TO ZAIRE

REF: (A) PARIS 00845 (B) STATE 02574

1. DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN
CENTRAL AFRICA WAS LESS PRODUCTIVE THAN IN BELGIUM GIVEN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR DE LA ROCHERE'S RECENT RETURN TO QUAI
D'ORSAY'S AFRICAN DIVISION FROM ELYSEE. IN GENERAL,
BOTH SIDES AGREED IN THEIR ANALYSES. FOLLOWING ARE
SOME FEW REMARKS OF INTEREST.

2. FRENCH DELEGATION HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LUANDA
WHERE IT WAS AGREED TWO SIDES WOULD ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (REF B). ACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL
BE MADE ON JANUARY 31. DE LA ROCHERE ASKED FOR DELE-
GATION'S VIEW ON UTILITY OF WESTERN PRESENCE E.G. FRANCE,
FRG AS MEANS OF DILUTING PRESENCE OF CUBANS/
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SOVIETS. HE AGREED WITH REMARK THAT FRANCE SHOULD NOT
EXPECT ANY EARLY, VISIBLE IMPACT FROM ITS PRESENCE.
HE INDICATED HE EXPECTED FRANCE TO ESTABLISH AN AID
PROGRAM. HE UNDERScored HOW RELATIVELY EASY VICTORY
IN ANGOLA BY REMOTE COUNTRIES WITH NO HISTORY OF
INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA INFLICTED DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL
SHOCK ON MODERATE AFRICAN STATES. SENEGAL AND IVORY

COAST REMAIN CONCERNED BY CUBAN CHALLENGE. OVER TIME, HOWEVER, CUBANS WILL SUFFER SAME HANDICAP OF ALL OCCUPIERS.

3. DE LA ROCHERE ASCRIBED ALMOST MORE IMPORTANCE TO ZAIRE IN HIS ANALYSIS THAN HAD THE BELGIANS. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS THE SECOND LARGEST FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD AND POTENTIALLY SECOND STRONGEST IN AFRICA (EXCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA). HE ALSO NOTED ITS ROLE AS A BARRIER AGAINST THE EXPANSION NORTHWARD INTO FRANCOPHONE AFRICA OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA.

4. FRENCH WERE SENSITIVE TO DANGER THAT MILITARY PROGRAMS COULD BE USED FOR REPRESSIVE PURPOSE IN ZAIRE AS ELSEWHERE IN THIRD WORLD. THEY AGREED FULLY WITH U.S. VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT MILITARY AID WAS DESIRABLE TO DETER EXTERNAL INTERVENTION BY LEFTIST, ANTI-MOBUTU FORCES, AND TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ZAIRE MILITARY WHO ARE ALWAYS CAPABLE OF INITIATING COUP. DE LA ROCHERE NOTED THAT FEW RELATIVELY HONEST REGIMES HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN IN THIRD WORLD, AND ECONOMIC REFORMS UNDERWAY IN ZAIRE SHOULD STRENGTHEN MOBUTU.
GAMMON

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